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State

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS: July 10, 1980
Morning Summary

1. IRAN: ISLAMIC REPUBLICAN PARTY PRESSES OFFENSIVE

Ayatollah Beheshti's Islamic Republican Party (IRP) is continuing its drive to neutralize its principal opponents: Bani-Sadr and the left, particularly the Mujahiddin al-Khalq. Khomeini seems unable or unwilling to prevent the resulting weakening of Bani-Sadr's wing. We see Khomeini's refusal to censure the party increasing clerical domination of Iran.

The IRP is determined to eliminate all opposition forces and dominate the new government. To achieve its goals, the IRP is:

--actively supporting Khomeini's demand that the bureaucracies be purged, a process that will eliminate a reservoir of support for Bani-Sadr;

--encouraging Ayatollah Khomeini's "reign of terror" (some "intellectuals" have been executed on trumped-up drug-peddling charges)

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--insisting that the credentials of possible opposition parliamentarians be examined (a July 8 Iranian news report says that Admiral Madani's credentials will be reviewed soon); 25X1 and

--waging a verbal campaign against the Mujahiddin

Khomeini has played into Beheshti's hands. Khomeini's vague speeches stressing the need for Islamic decisiveness and unity in the face of "imperialist threats" provide the ideological umbrella under which the IRP can freely act. The speeches essentially condone the maintenance of the decentralized status quo and the preservation of the revolutionary apparatus and fervor. This rhetoric thus puts Bani-Sadr on the defensive in his efforts to centralize power.

Nonetheless, the IRP has problems. Bani-Sadr has counter-attacked by disclosing tapes of an Islamic Republican party member who apparently advocated a coup. Moreover, the Iranian governor-general of West Azerbaijan claims that Beheshti's tactics have led to dissatisfaction within IRP ranks and to the loss of Khomeini's support. We have no evidence to confirm this last claim. Most indications point toward a continuing consolidation of IRP power.

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